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**GREGG ANNOUNCES \$684,224 TO NH DEPT. OF JUSTICE TO
COMBAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND UNDERAGE DRINKING**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that the U.S. Department of Justice has awarded two federal grants totaling **\$684,224** to the New Hampshire DOJ to continue substance abuse treatment programs for prison inmates and to further programs focused on deterring underage drinking. The first award is through the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, which will provide **\$326,564** to continue the work being done by the NH DOJ with the New Hampshire Department of Corrections, a partnership that began in 1996, and with the Division for Juvenile Justice Services focusing on adolescent drug and alcohol prevention. The RSAT also provides for assistance to offenders who are released from substance abuse programs. The NH DOJ will also receive **\$357,660** through the Enforcing Underage Drinking Law Program which will be subgranted to local law enforcement agencies and the New Hampshire Liquor Commissions Bureau of Enforcement. The program seeks to enhance enforcement mechanisms and increase compliance checks with retail establishments and restaurants. Senator Gregg is the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for the Department of Justice.

Senator Gregg stated, "Substance abuse is a significant problem that affects families and individuals of every gender, race and income level. It is critical when an opportunity to treat and reverse the effects of substance abuse presents itself that the resources are available to address this problem. Very often those in our correctional system are unable to be rehabilitated or assimilate back into society without first addressing their addiction to drugs or alcohol. These funds will give the Department of Corrections the ability to ensure former inmates rejoin communities with their addictions behind them.

"The funding for the prevention of underage drinking is essential to stemming future alcohol abuse problems before they can begin. A key factor in this deterrence is shutting off all avenues of purchasing alcohol available to minors, which includes performing regular checks with restaurants and stores that could sell liquor to minors."

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